



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 16, 2012

Roger Berliner
Montgomery County Council President
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Berliner and County Council:

As the County Council examines the County Executive's proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget, we wish to note the following for your consideration:

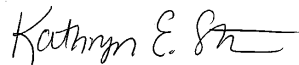
- Intergenerational/Youth
 - We support the continued and increased funding for programs and non-profits that work with our young people. This area has been a focus for our Board during the last six months.
 - Additionally, we ask the Council to work with the police to add additional School Resource Officers, and strategically target their assignment where they would benefit the larger efforts of the police in that area.
 - We support the funds recommended for restoration to recreation department programs (i.e., positive youth development, enhanced day camp at Long Branch Community Center).
 - We support the funding for the senior transportation pilot project for transportation for our older community members.
- Public Safety
 - Over the past year, Silver Spring has gained additional police officers. We are appreciative of that, and have seen positive results in the community. However, with scheduled retirement of 200 officers county-wide over the next two years, we note that the police academy classes only contemplate 30 graduates a year, a number that will not keep

- with attrition. We ask Council to consider increased funding for additional classes.
- We support increased and coordinated resources to attend to domestic violence resources in our community.
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- Metropolitan Branch Trail/Transportation & Pedestrian Safety
 - We ask that funding for this vital link to the Capital Crescent Trail be restored.
 - We continue to support repairs to existing roads and pedestrian and bicycle access and safety in Silver Spring.
- Community, Arts, & Cultural Space Access
 - We thank the County Executive for providing an additional \$100,000 to allow increased community access to the Silver Spring Civic Building and request that the Council support this. Community access is vital to the enhanced community enjoyment and use of this facility, particularly for additional hours in the evenings and on Saturdays.
 - We reinforce the importance of restoring hours to the Down County libraries, including Silver Spring and Long Branch.
 - We support increased funding for AFI, a jewel in the Arts & Entertainment District.

There are many areas of the proposed budget and community grants that are important to the Silver Spring Community. We focused on the areas listed above in order to provide a short list of priorities that reflect much of our ongoing work in understanding what is important to the people in our community. We recognize that many of our advice above require continued funding or additional resources. Therefore we advice you support the extension of the Energy Tax.

Thank you for your support of Silver Spring.

Sincerely,



Kathy Stevens
Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

CC: County Executive Leggett
Reemberto Rodriguez, Silver Spring Regional Center Director